

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 060945
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 PM-04 L-03 H-01 CIAE-00
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DRAFTED BY EUR/EE:JMSEYMOUR:DJW
APPROVED BY EUR/EE:NGANDREWS
D/HA - MR. HILL (PHONE)
PM/SAS - MR. GEIS (INFO)
-----182305Z 125440 /72-61

O P 182218Z MAR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 060945

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, YO, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: 76 STATE 231122

1. A YUGOSLAV EMBASSY OFFICER ON MARCH 18 DROPPED
BY TO DISCUSS THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON YUGOSLAVIA
(POUCHED SEPARATELY TO POSTS). A REPORT WITH STATE-
MENTS ON OVER 80 COUNTRIES INCLUDING YUGOSLAVIA WAS
RECENTLY SUBMITTED IN ADVANCE COPY FORM TO CONGRESS
WHICH SUBSEQUENTLY RELEASED IT. ALTHOUGH THERE HAS
BEEN PUBLICITY ABOUT CERTAIN COUNTRIES, YUGOSLAVIA
HAS DRAWN NO ATTENTION SO FAR.

2. THE EMBASSY OFFICER WAS GIVEN A COPY WHICH HE READ
QUICKLY, OBSERVING ONLY THAT BELGRADE WILL NOT LIKE IT.
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THE OFFICER SAID HIS EMBASSY DID NOT UNDERSTAND WHY
YUGOSLAVIA WAS INCLUDED SINCE IT RECEIVES NO "ASSISTANCE."
HE SAID THE SUGGESTION THAT YUGOSLAVIA DOES GET FOREIGN
ASSISTANCE WOULD CONTRADICT A BASIC PRINCIPLE OF
YUGOSLAV POLICY. HE OBSERVED THAT NOT EVEN THE MILITARY
ATTACHE HAD REALIZED THE U.S. CONSIDERED YUGOSLAVIA'S
MILITARY PURCHASES AS A FORM OF "ASSISTANCE."

3. DEPARTMENT OFFICERS (D/HA, EUR/EE) EXPLAINED THAT FOREIGN MILITARY SALES ARE FOR PURPOSES OF THE LEGISLATION SUBSUMED UNDER THE MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. D/HA OFFICIAL PROVIDED COPY OF RELEVANT LAW (POUCHED SEPARATELY TO EMBASSY) WHICH DEFINES "SECURITY ASSISTANCE" AND ESTABLISHES THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTING REQUIREMENT. HE FURTHER OUTLINED THE BROADER POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS THAT LED TO THE DEPARTMENT'S REPORTING OBLIGATION AND THE CRITERIA FOR THE REPORTS. HE ADDED THAT THE DEPARTMENT LAST SEPTEMBER HAD INSTRUCTED POSTS IN SECURITY ASSISTANCE RECIPIENT COUNTRIES TO PROVIDE HOST GOVERNMENTS WITH A COPY OF THE LAW AND EXPLAIN ITS REQUIREMENTS (REFERENCE).

4. COMMENT: THE APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING CONCERNING "ASSISTANCE" MAY COMPOUND YUGOSLAV ANNOYANCE OVER THE REPORT ITSELF. PRESUMABLY, THE YUGOSLAVS WILL NOT WANT TO DRAW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO THE REPORT, BUT THEY MAY FEEL OBLIGED TO ATTACK ITS PREMISE-- THE "ASSISTANCE" ANGLE. A ROUND OF PRESS RECRIMINATIONS WOULD SERVE NEITHER COUNTRY'S INTERESTS. WE BELIEVE THE EMBASSY HERE UNDERSTANDS THAT BUT CAN NOT BE SURE

ABOUT THE GOY ITSELF.
VANCE

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